

Remarks

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction is requested.

The Examiner has restricted the claims to four inventions citing 35 U.S.C. § 121. (Office Action, page 2.) The Examiner further requires an election of species for each of the four groups.

Applicants' undersigned representative conducted a telephone interview with the Examiner on September 28, 2006. As an initial matter, it was noted that the claims listed in the groups of the restriction requirement do not include all of the claims in the application. It is Applicants' understanding that the Office Action is not so much a restriction requirement as a request for an election of species to guide the Examiner in her search.

It is also Applicants' understanding that claims 1-18 will be examined. With this understanding, Applicants elect "2'-modified phosphodiester linked oligonucleotides" as the elected species for Group i; "biotin" as the elected species for Group ii and Group iii; and "an active portion of HIV TAT protein" as the elected species for Group iv. The elected species read on claims 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 14 but, again, it is Applicants' understanding that claims 1-18 will be considered. If necessary, Applicants further select Group i for initial examination.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

/Peter G. Foiles/

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